whether Central Government has taken any measures to deal with problem of drinking water in Delhi;

if so, the details thereof; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIS. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) As reported by Delhi Jal Board (DJB), the water shortage in Delhi was mainly due to reduced releases of Yamuna water from middle of February, 2008 onwards by Government of Haryana, who are regulating the control structures at Munak. This affected production of water from Wazirabad and Chandrawal Water Treatment Plants of Delhi by 15% to 30% during some days. Less rainfall in Upper Yamuna catchment resulting in shortage of water in Haryana as well as in Delhi has been stated as the main reason for reduced releases. In compliance of the directions of the Upper Yamuna River Board, Haryana started releasing 600 cusec to Yamuna water from Munak Escape from 14th March, 2008 onwards. The situation has since improved.

(c) and (d) Various short-term and long-term measures have been taken to enhance the water availability in Delhi. These include construction of independent lined canal from Munak to Haiderpur, construction of additional recycling plants, water treatment plants, underground reservoirs/booster pumping stations, improving transmission network, compulsory rain water harvesting, development of additional tubewells in the National Capital Region, additional allocation from surplus Revi-Beas water, construction of upstream storage projects etc.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

Payment of toil on NHS by State roadways buses

458. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that State roadways buses have been made to pay expressway toll, which are being used mostly by the poor; and

whether Government is considering to restrict express toll to private vehicles only and exempt State roadways buses from paying expressway toll?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The State Roadways buses are not included in the list of vehicles exempted from the levy of user fee (Toll) under Rule 5 of the National Highways (collection of Fees by any person for the use of Section of National Highways/Permanent Bridge/Temporary Bridge on National Highways) Rules 1997.

(b) No, Sir.

Delay in completion of highway projects

*459. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Government has failed to meet even a single target in highway projects in the country during 2007;

whether the delays in completion are proving expensive to the exchequer;

if so, the details thereof; and

the status of completion of various highway projects in Orissa and Jharkhand at the end of 2007? %

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways, which is an ongoing process. Every effort is made to complete the projects as per target. However, slippages occur is some cases due to various bottlenecks during execution.

(b) and (c) The delay in completion leads to cost escalation which is determined in accordance with the provisions in contract agreement. In case the project is delayed due to fault on the part of contractor, no escalation is paid.

(d) 67 National Highway project in Orissa and Jharkhand have been completed at the end of2007.

Length of National Highways

*460. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

the total length of National Highways in the country in kilometres;

the details thereof, State-wise; and

whether it is a fact that Orissa, Jammu and Kashmir and North-East States have less number and shortest length of National Highways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The total length of National Highways in the Country is 66,754 Km. State-wise details of length of National Highways is given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) The distribution of density of National Highways length is measured on the basis of length of National Highways in Km. per 1000 Km. and length of National Highways in Km. per lakh population. Based on this criteria, the distribution of density of National Highways length in the States of Orissa, Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern States are as follows:

Distribution of Density of National Highways Lengths

SI. No	NameofState/U.T.	Length of NH in Km/1000 sq. Km.	Length of NH in Km/Lakh population
1.	Orissa	23.8	10.1
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.6	12.4
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.7	35.9
4.	Assam	36.2	10.6
5.	Manipur	43.0	40.1
6.	Meghalaya	36.1	35.1